

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 SAM-01

SAB-01 /100 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 063502

R 012203Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 1, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. THERE ARE CONTINUED REPORTS, AS YOU KNOW, OUT
OF THE MIDDLE EAST SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ASKING
ISRAEL TO INTRODUCE A NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVE WHICH COULD
BREAK THE DEADLOCK IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IS THERE ANY BASIS
FOR THAT AT ALL?

A. NO, THERE IS NOT. LET ME JUST MAKE A GENERAL COMMENT,
BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY DIFFERENT STORIES ALONG
THE LINES THAT YOU MENTION.

WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY REQUEST FROM ISRAEL FOR ANYTHING. BUT I
WANT TO ADD THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH ALL THE
PARTIES AND THAT THESE PARTIES HOPE THAT U.S. EFFORTS
TOWARDS TRYING TO HAVE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE
EAST -- THEY HOPE THAT THESE EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE. BUT

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THUS FAR IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PARTIES, NO ONE HAS
COME UP WITH ANYTHING SPECIFIC, ANY PLANS OR ANYTHING, ON
HOW THEY WISH US -- SPECIFICALLY HOW THEY WISH US TO CON-
TINUE OUR EFFORTS.

Q. THERE IS ANOTHER REPORT AGAIN TODAY THAT THE EGYPTIANS
WILL NOT PERMIT ISRAELI-BOUND CARGOES TO GO INTO THE SUEZ
CANAL ONCE IT IS OPENED. CAN YOU STATE ON THE RECORD THAT

THE U.S. HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT --

A. I THINK ON THIS I WANT TO STAY WITH WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, WITH REGARD TO THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION. THE SECRETARY ADDRESSED HIMSELF, IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, TO THIS I THINK LAST NOVEMBER.

Q. NOT TO THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION -- I'M SORRY. THE QUESTION I AM PUTTING TO YOU SPECIFICALLY -- MAYBE YOU CAN GET AN ANSWER LATER -- IS: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT AS A RESULT OF THE 1974 DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT THAT ISRAELI-BOUND CARGOES WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE SUEZ CANAL ONCE IT IS OPENED.

A. LET ME LOOK INTO IT, BECAUSE I AM UNAWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC AGREEMENT. BUT LET ME CHECK IT.

Q. THE ARABS IN BEIRUT HAVE ANNOUNCED A NEW KISSINGER TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE NEAR FUTURE, TODAY.

A. THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR ANY TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST THAT THE SECRETARY HAS DISCUSSED WITH ME IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER.

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION WITH THE RETURNING AMBASSADORS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST? ARE THEY ALL HERE NOW AND HAVE DISCUSSIONS BEGUN WITH THEM?

A. I SAW TOM PICKERING IN THE CORRIDOR THIS MORNING. LET ME FIND OUT IF THE OTHER THREE ARE ALSO HERE. AND I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL BE BEGINNING THEIR CONSULTATIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEIR RETURN. BUT I WILL FIND OUT EXACTLY.

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Q. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING FURTHER ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH THAT REVIEW IS BEING CONDUCTED.

A. I CANNOT OVER AND ABOVE WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, OR THE DAY BEFORE, ON THIS. IT IS A REVIEW THAT HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE PRESIDENT, AND IT WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A NORMAL WAY, THROUGH THE NSC SYSTEM. ALL THE INTERESTED AGENCIES

AND DEPARTMENTS INTERESTED IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ON MIDDLE EASTERN MATTERS WILL PARTICIPATE. AND A REASSESSMENT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT. I ALSO CANNOT GIVE YOU ANYTHING MORE ON THE TIMING, ON WHEN IT WILL BE COMPLETED. I JUST DO NOT KNOW WHEN THAT WILL BE DONE.

Q. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE INDICATED VERY STRONGLY YESTERDAY THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEW COMMITMENTS OF AID TO ANY NATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHILE THIS REVIEW IS GOING ON. IS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING?

A. WELL, FRANKLY, ON THAT, I SEE NO DIFFERENCE IN WHAT SECRETARY SCHLESING SAID AND THEN IF YOU GO BACK TO WHAT SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID WHEN HE WAS ASKED A QUESTION ON THIS SAME SUBJECT. I MEAN THERE IS A POLICY REVIEW THAT IS UNDER WAY. WITH REGARD TO AID TO ISRAEL, I THINK THE SECRETARY MADE IT VERY CLEAR IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THIS IS BEING STUDIED AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. IT HASN'T GOTTEN UP TO HIM YET. IT HAS NOT GOTTEN UP TO THE PRESIDENT YET. AND OBVIOUSLY THERE WILL BE NO DECISIONS MADE UNTIL THIS POLICY REVIEW OF THE MIDDLE EAST IS UNDERTAKEN. I DON'T READ ANY DIFFERENCE INTO WHAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SAID AND WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK.

Q. BUT HE MADE IT SOMEWHAT MORE SPECIFIC, ABOUT PUTTING OFF ANY DECISION UNTIL AFTER THE REVIEW IS CONCLUDED, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO GIVE US ANY INDICATION AS TO HOW LONG THE REVIEW WILL GO ON.

A. WELL, I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW LONG THIS REVIEW WILL TAKE.
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I REMIND YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESIDENT, WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THIS, OR RON NESSEN, WHEN HE ANNOUNCED IT, SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WANTED TO HAVE THIS DONE "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". BUT I CANNOT PUT A NUMBER OF WEEKS OR NUMBER OF DAYS OR ANYTHING ON THIS FOR YOU. I JUST DO NOT KNOW.
END QUOTE.

SUBSEQUENT TO THE BRIEFING, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE PRESS OFFICE FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE CORRESPONDENTS: "AMBASSADOR PICKERING FROM JORDAN AND AMBASSADOR KEATING FROM ISRAEL HAVE ARRIVED. AMBASSADOR EILTS FROM EGYPT AND AMBASSADOR MURPHY FROM SYRIA WILL BE TRAVELLING BACK SOMETIME TOMORROW (WEDNESDDAY)." KISSINGER

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